THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The number of tourists who visited Jammu & Kashmir during the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 are 5412863, 5268246 and 4578404 respectively. State-wise foreign exchange earnings are not estimated.

(b) The New Tourism Policy envisages development of mountain based adventure activities in the Himalayas and promotion of village tourism in a number of locations including Ladakh in J&K. The Department of Tourism, Government of India in consultation with the State Government has identified the Himalayan Circuit which includes Leh and tourism-cum-cultural hubs at Leh, Leh Palace, Monasteries and Dal Lake for integrated development. The Gulmarg Winter Sports project has also been revived.

Conservation of heritage sites

2137. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing modalities/facilities are adequate for conservation of heritage (monuments) sites in the country, both budgetary and trained manpower-wise;

(b) how many such Heritage Sites exist in the country and whether Government are taking steps to create an effective synergy between the Government, voluntary organisations and people who are to be suitably sensitised; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) There are 3612 Centrally protected monuments in the country. Conservation of so many monuments is a mammoth task and requires huge budgetary and trained manpower resources. Within the constraint of resources, Government is doing its best.

Government has taken several measures to create an effective synergy between the Government, voluntary organizations and people and suitably sensitize them. Measures taken include publicity and cultural awareness programmes, observance of World Heritage Day, etc. Government has also set up the National Culture Fund to invite participation from the private sector, voluntary organizations and people in the promotion and preservation of Indian culture, and 100% tax rebate is admissible on donations made to this Fund.